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of the state. The contents cover such matters as the social background, development of political government, taxation, police power, functions of government, classification of law, the electorate, citizenship, political parties, and the growth of democracy. It is not in any sense a contribution. It is solely what it purports to be—an elementary introduction to political science.

MERRIAM, CHARLES EDWARD, PH.D.
American Political Ideas, 1865-1917.
 Pp. 480. Price, \$2.75. New York: The MacMillan Co. 1920.

The author well calls this *American Political Ideas* with the subtitle *Studies in the Development of American Political Thought, 1865-1917*. This is not a book on political theory. It is an inclusive study of the various ideas that have been present in American life from 1865-1917. The most masterly chapter of the book is that on "The Background of American Political Thought." This chapter will prove particularly helpful to anyone who cares to get the background for present-day political phenomena. The book should be in every well-stocked library.

Those who are looking for a critical analysis will be disappointed in the book. Those who are desirous of getting a clear-cut and well-balanced statement on such topics as the consent of the governed, the courts, the legislative and the executive, internationalism, militarism, the political party and civil liberties will find the book informing and useful.

KIERNAN, T. J., M.A. *British War Finance and the Consequences.* Pp. vi, 132. London: P. S. King and Son Limited.

This book discusses briefly and concisely the principles underlying public finance in Great Britain before, during, and since the World War. It does not contain detailed information as to the administration of taxes now in force in the United Kingdom. It does discuss concisely, however, the principles underlying these taxes and applies the general canons of economics thereto. This is a handy reference book as it contains the salient principles of the British fiscal system.

DOWD, JEROME, M.A. *Democracy in America.* Pp. XIII, 506. Price, \$3.50. Oklahoma City: The Harlow Publishing Company. 1921.

"One of the characteristics of the Americans, conspicuous in all Teutonic races, and especially accentuated in the English, is a very strong degree of pugnacity." This is the type of statement that pervades the book. Are the Teutonic races conspicuous for pugnacity and is this trait especially accentuated in the English? What sort of evidence would one have to have before such a statement could be made? Are we to rely merely on statements of travellers?

Those who desire such statements as the above quotation in great abundance will find numerous examples throughout this book. There are chapters devoted to domestic life, industrial life, political life, religious life, the press, the drama, manners, science, education, philosophy, music, painting, sculpture and architecture.

LASKI, HAROLD J. *Political Thought from Locke to Bentham.* Pp. 326. Price, \$1.90. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1921.

This book is more than the usual collection of excerpts from political thinkers. It is an interpretation of the classical contributions of political thinkers from Locke to Bentham in the light of present day developments. It is not a bromodic collection of excerpts from those authors, nor is it an exercise in putting up the authors of the past and knocking them down with present-day knowledge. It is an illuminating analysis of the works of those theorists, by one who has an inclusive grasp of economic and social forces that create political theories, written in an enticing style.

BRUCK, W. F. *Geschichte des Kriegsausschusses der Deutschen Baumwoll-Industrie.* Pp. 328. Berlin: War Committee for the German Cotton Industries, 1920.

The work under consideration presents a discussion of the organization and activity of the German Committee which dealt with the cotton industry in the German Empire during the war. The author, a